

In re Appln. Savicki
Serial No. 09/979,579

Atty. Docket 492.196

legs project toward the first end of the slider and flex in the direction of the transverse Y axis.

REMARKS

The Pending Claims

Currently pending are independent claims 58, 79, 97 and 118 and dependent claims 62-78, 84-96 and 102-117.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 84, 90, and 108 are objected to because they depend from canceled claims. Claims 58, 59, 61, 63-68, 79, 80, 89, 97, 98 and 107 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,301,394 to Richardson et al. Claims 70-78, 91-96 and 109-107 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Richardson et al. '394 patent.

Summary of the Amendments

Applicant has corrected the objected to informality in claims 84, 90, and 108. These claims now depend from pending claims. Accordingly, it is believed that the presently pending claims, as amended, obviate the objection.

Claims 59 and 61 have been cancelled and the limitations of those claims have been incorporated into independent claim 58. Claims 80 and 82 have been cancelled and the limitations of those claims have been incorporated into independent claim 79. Claims 98 and 100 have been cancelled and the limitations of those claims have been incorporated into independent claim 97. New claim 118 has been added. Support for these amendments is fully supported by Applicant's specification (see, e.g., page 15, lines 5-14; page 18, lines 18-25; figs. 5-6 and figs. 14-18).

Discussion of the Prior Art Rejections

Claims 58, 79 and 97 have been amended to more clearly define the structure of the invention. Specifically the limitation that the first and second legs extend from the fastening strip second end of the slider generally toward the fastening strip first end of the slider. Applicants respectfully submit that the detents disclosed in Richardson, the reference relied upon by the Examiner, are structurally different and therefore do not

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anticipate or render obvious claims 58, 79 or 97. Since dependent claims 62-78, 84-96 and 102-117 ultimately depend from either claim 58, 79 or 97, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also not anticipated or rendered obvious by Richardson.

New claim 118 claims an embodiment of the invention wherein the legs on the flexible occlusion member project toward the first end on the slider and flex in the direction of the transverse y-axis.

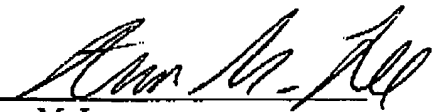
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CONCLUSION

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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